



016946.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
: )  
TACHIO ONO )  
: )  
Application No.: 10/500,803 )  
: )  
Filed: July 7, 2004 )  
: )  
Intl. Appl. No.: PCT/JP03/00518 )  
: )  
Intl. Filing Date: January 22, 2003 )  
: )  
For: STORAGE APPARATUS AND )  
CONTROL METHOD : March 14, 2005

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(ii), effective October 21, 2004, copies of the U.S. patent documents (1) to (6) are not provided. A copy of each of the documents (7) to (9) is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,033,072
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 5,526,367
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 5,105,383
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 4,974,201
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 4,974,200
- (6) U.S. Publication No. 2003-0005188
- (7) Europe 0 751 464
- (8) Germany 199 41 742
- (9) PCT/WO 01/19076

References (6) to (8) were cited in an International Search Report, a copy of which was submitted with the present application, on July 7, 2004. Reference (9), which includes an English-language abstract, is believed to be an international publication corresponding to reference (8).

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carole A. Quinn', is written over a horizontal line.

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